

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Louisiana Emergency Response Commission (LERC)**

Meeting Title Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Date of Meeting December 14, 2016
Where Louisiana State Police Headquarters
7919 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Start Time 10:00 a.m.

1. Lt. Col. David Staton called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. Tara Guidry, LSP/Right-to-Know Unit, called roll as follows:

Lt. Col. David Staton, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
Dr. Chuck Brown, Department of Environmental Quality, PRESENT
Dr. Brent Robbins, Designee for Department of Agriculture and Forestry, PRESENT
William Rachal, Designee for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, PRESENT
Command Technician (CT) Taylor Moss, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
James "Jim" Polk, Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, PRESENT
Cecil "Keith" Bennett, Carroll L. Herring Fire and Emergency Training Institute, PRESENT
Marty Chabert, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, PRESENT
Edward Flynn, Louisiana Chemical Association, PRESENT
Chief Bobby Black, PRESENT
Joel "Joey" Dugas, PRESENT
Jennifer Reynolds, PRESENT
Travis Perrilloux, St. John the Baptist Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, PRESENT
Chief Guy Bonin, Iberia Parish Fire District, PRESENT
Obed "Obie" Cambre, Jr., ExxonMobil, PRESENT
Chris Guilbeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT
Senator Mike Walsworth, NOT PRESENT
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, NOT PRESENT

The records reflect that the following visitors were present:

Jan Herrington, Positive Results Inc.
Xiaoping Nie, Department of Health and Hospitals
Bryan Riche, DEQ
Major Duane Schexnayder, Department of Public Safety
Clayton Smith, GOHSEP
Clay Trachtman, Department of Health and Hospitals

The records also reflect that the following LSP/Emergency Services Unit personnel were present:

Gene Dunegan
Tara Guidry
Alisa Monroe
Paul Schexnayder, Louisiana State Police Legal Counsel

3. Lt. Col. David Staton began by welcoming new members to the commission, as well as those who were re-appointed to serve. He asked Mr. Gene Dunegan to discuss Executive Order JBE 2016-47, which establishes the commission. The order describes the 19 members who compose the commission, and the jobs and duties of the commission. Lt. Col. Staton requested that at the next quarterly meeting Mr. Dunegan present a general overview of why the commission exists.
4. Lt. Col. Staton asked members to review their contact information and to advise of any changes.
5. Lt. Col. Staton asked the commission to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2016 LERC meeting. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. James Polk to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

6. **Committee Reports:**

Long Range Planning: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Chief Bobby Black for a report from the Long Range Planning Committee. Chief Black said that he had received a commitment to conduct an educational session on LERC at the annual Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association. Presentations are a great way to make everyone aware of LERC and what the commission can offer to them. Lt. Col. Staton asked Chief Black if there was anything that could assist him as he works on educating and engaging with first responders and local governments about the commission. Chief Black suggested that other commission members could contact particular organizations to schedule and conduct similar seminars. Mr. Edward Flynn committed as a representative of the Louisiana Chemical Association to help Chief Black get on meeting agendas. Chief Guy Bonin, who represents District 4 of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, also offered his assistance to Chief Black. Mr. Jim Polk added that he had incorporated a presentation on LERC into a 40-hour hazmat training class that went over well with class participants. Ms. Jennifer Reynolds suggested reaching out to police jurors, mayors, and even school board representatives, because often they are the ones voting on important matters that will affect emergency preparation and response.

Emergency Plans Review: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Clayton Smith to present the Emergency Plans Review report on behalf of Mr. Chris Guilbeaux. LERC is required by law to review each parish's Hazardous Materials Response Plan known as ESF-10 or Annex H. The Emergency Plans Review committee reviews and provides feedback for these plans, created for responses to releases of extremely hazardous substances. Since the previous LERC meeting, the committee has completed reviews of the ESF-10s of East Feliciana Parish, Iberville Parish, St. James Parish, and Vermillion Parish, and all four parishes met the necessary requirements. During the next quarter, the committee will review plans for Allen, Beauregard, Cameron, and Catahoula Parishes.

Training and Resources: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Keith Bennett for the report from the Training and Resources Committee. Mr. Bennett stated that a few years ago, they trained about 2000 students a year. At the end of this third quarter, they have already exceeded that amount. Last year over 2700 students went through the program for hazmat classes.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Jim Polk, who did not have a report but did ask that Mr. Dunegan make his LERC presentation to conference attendees at next year's LEPA conference on May 1st in Lake Charles. Lt. Col. Staton added that the second quarterly LERC meeting, as in years past, would be at the conference.

Public Information – There was no report submitted by the Public Information Committee.

Lt. Col. Staton requested that for the next quarterly meeting, the commission bring ideas and initiatives of how LERC can more fully utilize the area of social media to present information to the public. Mr. Flynn asked if there are practices used for social media by other state Emergency Response Commissions that could be adapted and customized for Louisiana. He noted that by examining social media outreach done by other ERCs, the commission could avoid common mistakes or repeating bad ideas. Mr. Flynn also pointed out that if the LERC did have a social media page, someone would need to be responsible for maintaining it.

Emergency Notification – There was no report submitted by the Emergency Notification Committee.

Mr. Ed Flynn announced that the President of the Louisiana Chemical Association, Dan Borné, is retiring effective December 31st. The new President will be Greg Bowser, the Executive Vice President of LCA. Mr. Flynn also mentioned that two upcoming significant rulemakings on the federal level that would impose significant new public disclosure requirements on regulated facilities to LEPCs will more likely than not continue to proceed through, unless the incoming administration discontinues the executive order that initiated these rules.

7. Old Business

The only item of old business concerned the composition of the Commission. Chief Bobby Black asked if all of the vacant positions on the Commissions had been filled. Mr. Gene Dunegan answered that they were, and that the Director of Boards and Commissions is considering a rule that would allow Senator Mike Walsworth and Senator Bodi White to remain on the commission.

8. New Business

The first item of new business concerned LEPC membership updates for the following parishes: Lafayette, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Tangipahoa. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to approve all of the updates. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The next item was a comment from Dr. Chuck Brown on communicating information during emergency incidents. Dr. Brown noted that during a recent incident at Dow Chemical, there were two sheriffs speaking with the media, but that the state police had more updated information. CT Taylor Moss responded that state police hazmat technicians do not speak to the media but instead

pass on information to their public information officers who are trained in that area. He added that sometimes the media wants to speak to a sheriff or police chief rather than a public affairs officer. Ms. Jennifer Reynolds asked if LEPCs could be in control of distributing information to the media. Mr. Polk answered that the joint information system was in place so that public information officers could speak with one unified voice. CT Moss noted that during a major incident such as a train derailment, a state police public information officer would assist local officials on coordinating and releasing information.

9. Lt. Col. Staton asked if there were any questions or announcements from the audience. Ms. Jan Herrington of Positive Results Inc. remarked that in 2002 a weekly newspaper in St. James Parish featured information from the LEPC, and that this could be easily converted to social media. She added that she would speak with Mr. Dunegan about this.

Lt. Col. Staton gave the floor to Mr. Gene Dunegan to discuss scheduling of the LERC's next quarterly meeting which normally occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of the 3rd month of the quarter. The next LERC meeting date would be Wednesday, March 8th, 2017 to be held at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters.

10. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.